

Maths Star

Simplifying Fractions

In order to simplify fractions, you simply find a number that both the numerator (the number on top) and the denominator (the number on the bottom) can be divided by.

E.g. Simplify $\frac{4}{6}$

In this example, both the 4 and the 6 can be divided by 2, which looks like:

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{4} \div 2 = \underline{2} \\ \underline{6} \div 2 = \underline{3} \end{array} \quad \text{So the answer is } \frac{2}{3} \dots \text{ Simple!}$$

Now try these examples:

Simplify:

1) $\frac{\underline{4}}{\underline{8}} \div 4 = \frac{\underline{1}}{\underline{2}}$

2) $\frac{\underline{6}}{\underline{9}} \div 3 = \frac{\underline{2}}{\underline{3}}$

3) $\frac{\underline{3}}{\underline{7}}$ Doesn't Simplify!

4) $\frac{\underline{8}}{\underline{10}} \div 2 = \frac{\underline{4}}{\underline{5}}$

5) $\frac{\underline{12}}{\underline{16}} \div 4 = \frac{\underline{3}}{\underline{4}}$

6) $\frac{\underline{6}}{\underline{15}} \div 3 = \frac{\underline{2}}{\underline{5}}$

Handy ★ hint: Watch out because sometimes a fraction can't be simplified! Don't be tricked into spending too long on a question!